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the last session of the Virginia State Bar Association and by his address upon the Torrens System on that occasion. He states his purpose in writing this treatise to have been the stating of the principles of law applicable to the transfer of the title to real property by deed in such manner as to assist in the drafting and interpretation of the instrument of transfer. In these pages, the deed is the thing. Its several parts are then considered in the order in which they follow one another in the form that may be used in any state. After the delivery of the formally completed instrument is discussed, certain restrictions on the general freedom of alienation are considered. While the recording of conveyances has not been made especially a subject of discussion, it has been necessarily referred to at many points, and a chapter is given to suggestions as to the examination of title, and one to the registration of title under the "Torrens System."

The work is essentially one for general use. Its citations are not bewildering in number, but are carefully selected from the reports of the several states. The Virginia decisions are given a prominent place, and are brought down to the latest possible date. They include *Hunton v. Wood*, 43 S. E., 186, and *Geil v. Geil*, 9 Virginia Law Register, 530, the latter decided in September last. The writer's style is not that of a mere compiler, but rather one befitting his position as a teacher, and involving at once discrimination and lucidness. It is works like this that are sought by the profession—works in which the author's personality is not lost sight of in a mass of authorities *pro* and *con*, but is instead made apparent in an effort to present in a philosophic manner the results of years of study of the reason and life of the law. We have no hesitation in recommending this monograph of Professor Brewster to all who are in search of the principles of the law of conveyancing and the latest adjudications thereon.

CHANCERY PRACTICE, with especial reference to the office and duties of Masters in Chancery, Registers, Auditors, Commissioners in Chancery, etc., including Forms of Orders of Reference, Masters' Reports, Objections, Exceptions, Orders of Confirmation, Recomittal, etc. By John G. Henderson, LL. D., of the Chicago Bar. Chicago: T. H. Flood and Company. 1904. pp. 1087.

This is a notable work. Its author, like that of the book next above reviewed, is a law professor, and like him also, writes out of the fullness of his learning. We open these pages at random, and continue to read. To be honest, this is a rare fault with a law-book, but we can safely say *exempli gratia*, that any lawyer who will commence the perusal of the introduction will finish it before laying the book aside.

The present work is not limited to the practice in the master's office after a cause has been submitted to him, but beginning with a cause long anterior to its submission, shows what, when and to whom matters will be submitted, the proper preparation of a cause for a reference, followed by an examination of the whole proceedings in the master's office, treating the matter, step by step, until his final report is made and returned into court. The proceedings before the chancellor, on review of the master's findings, are then taken up in their order and followed until the entry of a final decree, showing what is necessary to prepare the case for revision in the upper court. A chapter is then added, show-

ing in detail all the proceedings in the upper court when called upon to revise the action of the master and the chancellor—the preparation of the record, assignment of errors, the making of briefs and abstracts, and final submission of the cause to the court.

This is followed by a chapter upon masters' sales, in which will be found a full statement of the law relative to the subject, together with the method of reporting the same, attacking the report and confirmation thereof. The work is concluded with a full chapter upon masters' fees, and the compensation he is entitled to for his labor; while throughout the work, in their appropriate places, will be found various forms used not only in the master's office, but in the courts as well.

The foregoing will sufficiently show the scope of the work. It will be found especially useful to our commissioners in chancery, both state and federal. A fair proportion of Virginia decisions are cited. Section 369 is devoted to a construction of rule 83 of the federal equity rules in the Fourth Circuit, and involves the question of whether exceptions should be filed before the master or in court. The differing views of Judge Paul in *Fidelity etc. Co. v. Shenandoah Iron Company*, 42 Fed., 372, and of Judge Simonton, speaking for Chief Justice Fuller, J. dge Goff, and himself, in *Gay Mfg. Co. v. Camp*, 15 C. C. A. 226, 68 Fed. 67, are given in full, with a memorandum by a Baltimore lawyer to the effect that although the latter case must be accepted as controlling, yet the rule laid down therein is more honored in the breach than in the observance.

Upon the whole, the treatise is an eminently practical one, and establishes the claim of its author that notwithstanding the number of standard treatises on equity practice, it occupies a field peculiarly its own.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAW OF 1898. Annotated and Explained with the Amendments thereto and latest Federal and State Decisions, and the General Orders and Forms established by the United States Supreme Court. By John M. Gould and Arthur W. Blakemore. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1904. pp. 243. \$3.00 net.

The modest claim of the authors is that "the decisions here collected and reviewed are of the greatest value, and this annotation of the Act" (in 243 pages) "is believed to be the *most thorough and most useful treatment existing of that Statute.*" They further assure us that "this book doubtless contains everything that the practising lawyer needs on this subject, as it combines the information furnished by a digest and a text-book of Bankruptcy Law and Practice." In this rather extravagant claim, we cannot express our concurrence. The book, however, seems to be a useful manual of the law of the subject.